JAW)



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT ACCORDING TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

APPLICANT(S):

Osamu Aoki, et al.

DOCKET NO:

P06,0070

SERIAL NO.:

10/579.668

ART UNIT:

2186

FILED:

May 17, 2006

EXAMINER: CONF. NO.

9380

TITLE:

INVALIDITY MONITORING PROGRAM, INVALIDITY MONITORING

METHOD AND INVALIDITY MONITORING SYSTEM

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98, Applicant respectfully requests that a citation and examination of the references identified on the attached PTO/SB/08 form be made during the course of examination of the above-identified application for United States Patent.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed according to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) and before the latter occurrence of:

- (1) three months from the filing date of a national application;
- (2) three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

REMARKS

The attached PTO/SB/08 form lists related art references for the above identified application. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii), no copies of the U.S. patent documents are being supplied herewith, but will be provided upon request.

EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

References AA-AG are Japanese patents that were cited in the International

Search Report. An English-language translation of the abstracts has been provided, and a full translation of these documents will be produced upon request of the Examiner.

The filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the present Information Disclosure Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The above citation of related art is not a representation that such art constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of all pertinent related art, nor that it necessarily includes the closest or most relevant art. The aforementioned citation comprises a voluntary citation of related art of which applicant and his attorney are presently aware and is not intended to serve as a substitute for the Examiner's own search.

Submitted by,

Mark Beigner (Reg. No. 45,877)

Mark Bergner

SCHIFF HARDIN LLP PATENT DEPARTMENT

6600 Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473

(312) 258-5779

Muh Begnes

Attorney for Applicant(s)

CUSTOMER NUMBER 26574

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on 7eb. 28,7001

MAR 0 5 2007

PTO/SB/08A (07-05)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction acroi 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Sheet

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known				
Application Number	10/579,668			
Filing Date	May 17, 2006			
First Named Inventor	Osamu Aoki			
Art Unit	2186			
Examiner Name				
Attorney Docket Number	P06 0070			

Examiner	Cite	Document Number	U. S. PATENT D	Name of Patentee or	Pages Columns Lines Where
Initials*	No.1	Number-Kind Code ^{2 (f known)}	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-			
		US-			-
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages	
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	WW-DD-AAAA		Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	AA	JP 11-25045	05/17/1989	Matsushita Electric Ind. Co Ltd		Abst
	AB	JP 5-120194	05/18/1993	NEC Eng. Ltd		Abst
	AC	JP 2002-232451	08/16/2002	Layer Seven Co. Ltd		Abst
	AD	JP 2002-288087	10/04/2002	Humming Heads Inc.		Abst
	AE	JP 2003-44297	02/14/2003	Humming Heads Inc.		Abst
	AF	JP 2003-233521	08/22/2003	Hitachi Ltd		Abst

Examiner	,	Date	
Signature		Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

PTO/SB/08A (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0551-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

P06,0070

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number 10/579,668

Filing Date May 17, 2006

First Named Inventor Osamu Aoki

Art Unit 2186

Examiner Name

Sheet

Attorney Docket Number

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant	
		Number-Kind Code ^{2 (d known)}			Figures Appear	
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-	 			
	<u> </u>	US-			-	
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		us-			•	
•		US-				
		US-	1			
		us-				
		US-				
	ļ <u>.</u>	US-				

		FORE	IGN PATENT DOCU	JMENTS .		
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	
-		Country Code ³ "Number ⁴ "Kind Code ⁵ (if known)		1		-
	AG	JP 2003-296193	10/17/2003	Seiko Instruments Inc.		Abst
						T

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. Senter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Skind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Transtation is attached.
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.